

Appl. No. 10/027,616
Atty. Docket No. 8782
Amdt. Dated 06/30/2004
Reply to Office Action of 03/30/2004
Customer No. 27752

REMARKS

Claims 13-18 are rejected under 35 USC §112, second para. Appropriate correction has been made. The limitations of Claim 14 have been added to Claim 13. Claim 14 is canceled accordingly. Claim 18 is also canceled hereunder.

Claims 13-15 and 18 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) or, alternatively, under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over Leutsch et al. (6,287,642 B1). Leutsch teaches a process for coating wiper wherein the monomer gas 44 is added to the plasma 30 downstream of cathode 34. Leutsch teaches only a single cathode/plasma zone.

Claim 13 is amended to recite plural plasma concentrators, which provide the benefit of more flexibility in making the desired plasma field. Basis is found in the specification (9:3-11). New Claim 21 requires a manifold to be associated with each plasma concentrator. Basis is found in the specification (9:12-15). Claim 22 recites an annular plasma concentrator. Basis is found in the specification (Fig. 3). These arrangements provide the benefits of more precise control of the excitation of the working gas.

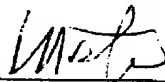
Leutsch does not teach plural plasma concentrators as are required by Claim 13 and the claims dependent therefrom. Providing plural plasma concentrators allows for varying densities of plasma to be generated in the plasma chamber.

None of the cited references teaches plural plasma concentrators, nor annular plasma concentrators, nor plasma concentrators having the associated manifold. The prior art does not provide the method of forming a plasma and using such plasma to coat articles as required by the claimed invention.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all claims remaining in the application.

Respectfully submitted,

By



Larry L. Huston
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 32,994
(513) 634-9358

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